



Drogheda's Ice Rink 1879



Drogheda's first proper ice-rink was created accidentally by Drogheda Port in 1879.

Following the years dredging of the port the total quantity of material taken out of the river during the year by manual labour and by dredging was 54,000 tons, the entire of which was usefully and profitably employed or made use of in various ways-viz.: in filling and backing up the space between the river frontage wall of the Chadwick Quay and the adjoining ground, in backing and giving increased width and stability to the river embankments, and in raising the level of the new park at St. James', and thereby fitting it for purposes healthful to the inhabitants and useful to the port.

The port engineer James McCartin noted in his annual report to the board of the company that during the long continuance of the frost of the past winter (1879) the ice on the pond in this enclosure afforded a delightful pastime to a large portion of the inhabitants. The merry laugh and the music of the skates were heard to mingle from morning till late in the evenings for many weeks.

The swift motion of the skaters as they glided to and fro across the ice in different ways must be to them a healthy exercise. Towns of less importance than Drogheda have their parks and their skating rinks, and with a moderate expenditure it could be converted into a healthy place of resort through the entire year.

A boathouse has been erected on the banks of the enclosure, and a spacious slipway extended into low water of the river, thereby affording additional facilities for yachting and boat-racing during summer months. Those appendages have been added with very small additional expense, as the material of the reclaimed slob-land had of necessity to be removed from the river in the progress of its improvements.